

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 090965
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:WSSMITH:YT

APPROVED BY ARA:JBUSHNELL

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S/S-O - JIM THYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

USINT HAVANA

INFO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

S E C R E T STATE 090965

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ET, SO, CU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACKS

REF: STATE 088087

1. DIRECTOR CUBAN AFFAIRS TODAY RAISED POSSIBILITY
ETHIOPIAN ATTACKS ON SOMALI BORDER VILLAGE WITH CHIER
OF CUBAN INTERESTS SECTION, USING TALKING POINTS PROVIDED
REFTEL. HE INDICATED THAT USINT HAVANA AL HAD
INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE WITH GOC. ANY SUCH ATTACKS WOULD
BE MOST UNFORTUNATE, HE CONCLUDED, AND ASKED IF CUBANS
COULD USE INFLUENCE WITH ETHIOPIANS TO PREVENT.

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2. CUBAN ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO HIS GOVT. HE
DOUBTED THAT ETHIOPIANS HAD ANY SUCH PLANS. CUBAN AND
ETHIOPIAN ASSURANCES THAT SOMALI FRONTIER WOULD BE
RESPECTED HAD BEEN FULLY HONORED. CUBA INTENDED TO
CONTINUE TO HONOR THOSE ASSURANCES AND WOULD ENCOURAGE
ETHIOPIANS TO DO SO. THERE MIGHT BE SOME INCIDENTS ALONG
THE FRONTIER. WSLF REMAINED ACTIVE, HE POINTED OUT. BUT

HE THOUGHT IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD AT THIS POINT UNDERTAKE MAJOR ATTACKS ACROSS THE BORDER EVEN IN RETALIATION FOR SOMALI INCURSIONS IN SUPPORT OF WSLF.

3. CUBAN ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DENY ALLEGATIONS THAT CUBAN COMBAT UNITS ARE INVOLVED IN ERITREAN FIGHTING. STANDING ORDERS TO CUBAN COMMANDERS IN FIELD ARE NOT TO BECOME INVOLVED, HE SAID. THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE OR TWO ISOLATED EXCEPTIONS TO OR VIOLATIONS OF THOSE ORDERS, BUT THE POLICY REMAINS FIRM. CUBA PREFERS POLITICAL SOLUTION. IT UNDERSTANDS CLEARLY THAT SHOULD IT BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN FIGHTING, AND ESPECIALLY BEFORE POLITICAL SOLUTION HAS BEEN GIVEN A REAL CHANCE, THAT COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH MANY OF ITS FRIENDS IN THE THIRD WORLD, SUCH AS ALGERIA AND IRAQ. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT COMPROMISE WAS NEEDED AND ERITREANS WOULD HAVE TO BE REASONABLE. CUBA WOULD NOT STAND BY AND SEE DISMEMBERMENT ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL TERRITORY. VANCE

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